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85-1856

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 11, 1985

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Senate Intelligence Committee

To Review Soviet Threat

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"The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence will conduct a comprehensive review of the Soviet intelligence threat and U.S. counterintelligence and security programs", Sen. Dave Durenberger (R-MINN) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman and Vice Chairman, announced at the conclusion of a Committee meeting today.

"This comprehensive review will be done within the context of the Committee's continuing oversight responsibilities", the Senators said, "and will include an examination of the implications for national security growing out of the Walker case."

Topics to be addressed include:

- Changes in the extent of Soviet espionage operations both within the United States and against U.S. installations and interests overseas.

- The reasons behind the record number of espionage cases in the last year.

- How effectively U.S. counterintelligence agencies have utilized the increased resources made available to them by the Congress.

- What needs to be done to improve security so that truly sensitive information and operations are better protected. This includes the classification system, the personnel security system and the communications security system, as well as computer and other forms of technical and operational security.

"Plans for such a review were transmitted to the Administration last month and we look forward to co-operating with the Executive Branch in this effort", the Senators declared.

"The Committee has no more important work before it than to examine the current state of U.S. foreign intelligence and counterintelligence and to assess our future needs. This counterintelligence and security review, which will begin promptly, is a critical part of that work", the Senators concluded.